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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES:	BOARD OF PLUMBING & HVACR EXAMINERS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING DATE AND TIME:	Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.
PLACE:	861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, Delaware Conference Room C , second floor of the Cannon Building

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dean Sherman, Professional Member, President
Charles Robbins, Professional Member, Vice President
Frank Beebe, Professional Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jerome Todd, Professional Member
Gerard Pepeta, Professional Member
John Brady, Public Member
Carol Guilbert, Public Member, Secretary
James Anderson, Public Member

DIVISION STAFF/DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bryan Smith, Deputy Attorney General
Latonya Brown, Administrative Specialist II
Shelly Ide, Administrative Specialist II

OTHERS PRESENT

Chuck Davidson, DPH
Ron Lord, IAPMO
Tom Francisconi, T.A. Austin Plumbing
Nick Azmo, DRWA

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sherman called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Backflow

Mr. Robbins presented the committee members with the ASSE guidelines for instructor certifications. He stated ASSE has not returned his calls but from his knowledge ASSE does require continuous instruction certification every few years. ASSE is stricter than the other organizations. Mr. Azmo reported that New England Water Works does not require their instructors to do continuous certification. Once you become an instructor you maintain instructor status. NEWW has their own instructors so outsiders cannot apply. Mr. Azmo also stated that

four out of the five require 40 hour classes -TREEO, ASSE, USC and ABPA. New England Water Works does not. Mr. Sherman questioned whether the other certification programs, such as the surveyors, testers and repairers, have the same categories as ASSE. Mr. Azmo confirmed that New England Water Works does have the same categories.. ASSE has a programs administrator class, similar to a prep class to the surveying class.

Mr. Sherman questioned how Maryland handles these issues. Mr. Azmo stated that Maryland has never tracked their testers. Mr. Robbins mentioned that Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission does track their testers. Mr. Azmo stated that Kruger classes are not nationally recognized. He recommends the Board stick with 1 of the 5 recognized certifications. Mr. Sherman stated that keeping the reciprocity situation intact with Delaware and Maryland is important. Mr. Sherman has been unable to get an answer from Maryland on exactly how they view Kruger Training Academy certification. Maryland applicants that are coming to Delaware (when this all settles) we are not going to recognize Kruger backflow certificates or certification on any level. Mr. Davidson mentioned unless the board says that it is ok we don't have any plans to go beyond what the ICC says.

Mr. Smith (DAG) stated that convenience or inconvenience to the Maryland licensee is necessarily of issue to the backflow committee. The committee's primary obligation is to protect the members of the Delaware public. Mr. Robbins stated that Maryland requires a backflow prevention course to become a Master licensee but it doesn't have to be current and it also doesn't mean that the licensee is a certified tester. However, in Delaware you don't need to take a backflow course to get a Master license. Mr. Robbins states that we are not denying anybody a license, under the license they can install just can't test and repair. Mr. Robbins mentioned that he would like to see something that states the recertification from the other programs. Mr. Azmo said he can provide that. Mr. Sherman questioned if we craft a language to use the 40 hour criteria, what do we do when someone comes along with their own 40 hour course? Mr. Robbins responded back, that if the committee chooses ASSE and TREEO it would have to be one of those two, at this point New England is out. Mr. Azmo stated that USC and ABPA would have to be added because they are nationally recognized. ABPA is a spinoff of USC. If you take a USC course only a USC instructor (it's only 5 or so) is going to teach you that course. If you go for ABPA, there going to teach you the USC way and it's recognized by them.

Mr. Robbins suggested that the five main organizations send information outlining their courses. Even though New England Water Works doesn't qualify at least it will be on file. Mr. Sherman agreed that having the criteria from all five organizations will help with out-of-state applicants.

Mr. Robbins states that if you install a backflow preventer, it has to be tested upon installation. If you don't have the certification you can not test it. A plumber can not test it unless they are ASSE certified. Mr. Azmo stated that ASSE tracks everybody, it is on the website. Mr. Sherman said there are a bunch of Delaware plumbers that only have Kruger certification. They will have to attain updated certification. Mr. Robbins mentioned that he knows that there are uncertified testers out there testing. Also, there was initial talk about creating a license for the backflow testing. Where do we stand on that? Mr. Sherman stated that there are no permits being pulled to test, no license is required and that may be something for down the road. Mr. Sherman also referred back to what Mr. Smith (DAG) said that there are people out there who are using others who are not certified. How do we get this information out? Mr. Davidson mentioned that he can get that information out.

Continuing Education

Ms. Brown handed out the Delaware electrical CE requirements.

The Committee discussed requirements for continuing education. Mr. Sherman asked if plumbing and HVACR hours should be differentiated. Mr. Azmo stated that HVACR is different and should be separate. Mr. Robbins pointed out that the Delaware Electrical Board requires the licensee to maintain record of their own continuing education credits. Mr. Robbins suggested 8 credits which include 4 specifics and 4 electives. Mr. Sherman agreed.

Mr. Robbins offered to speak with PHCC to see what National has to offer. Also to upgrade (NCCER) apprenticeship program to increase to 32 (from 28). He will work with them and create a wet lab which would require approval from the Department of Labor.

The next plumbing meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Sherman, seconded by Mr. Robbins, to adjourn the meeting. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Latonya Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Latonya Brown